



off the front

Forecasting Leisure/Hospitality Services Employment *through 2013*

In many counties, the leisure/hospitality services industries showed the first signs of economic awakening as the business-cycle recovery began. Close-to-home vacations and a little eating-out proved some of the first additional expenditures consumers were willing to make. On the other hand, in some of Utah's off-the-Wasatch-Front counties, this industry continues to contract. What do economists expect for the leisure/hospitality industry in the less urban areas during 2013?

Leisure/hospitality services industry employment is often used as a proxy for tourism-related jobs. This large sector includes a wide range of businesses providing entertainment, recreational activities, accommodations and food services. Obviously, along with tourists, the industry serves the demand of local customers as well. See Figure 1 for a definition of each particular area.


How Dependent Are They?

The level of leisure/hospitality services employment comparative to other areas suggests the dependency of a particular region on tourism-related jobs. For example, on average in Utah, roughly 9 percent of jobs in 2011 were categorized in the leisure/hospitality services industry. However, the Southeast portion of Utah (Grand and San Juan counties), with its abundance of recreation and state/national parks, shows almost one fourth of employment in this industry.

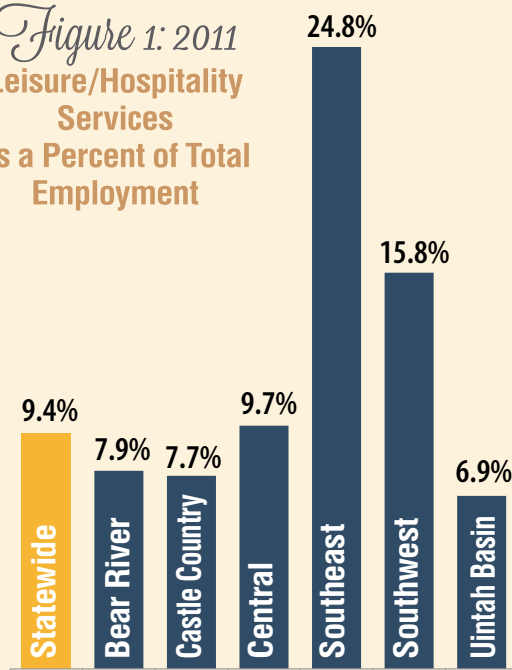
Off-the-front areas show a wide assortment of leisure/hospitality services dependence. Three areas (Bear River, Castle Country and the Uintah Basin) show lower-than-average leisure/hospitality services employment shares. On the other end of the scale, both Southeast and Southwest regions show a significantly higher percentage of jobs in this sector.

What's Ahead?

Current and projected growth in leisure/hospitality services jobs tends to mirror the overall performance of an area's economy. This suggests that local consumption plays a strong role in an area's expansion in leisure/hospitality jobs. Of course in most areas, a high percentage of food services sales do come from local residents.

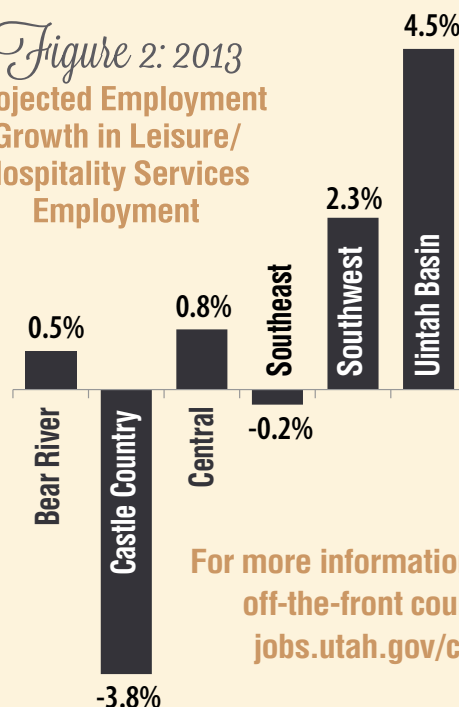
The strongest leisure/hospitality services growth is expected in the Uintah Basin in 2013. This 5-percent expansion will be heavily dependent on a continuing boom in the oil and gas fields. The Southwest should show the next highest level (2 percent) of leisure/hospitality services gains. Rather slow expansion is anticipated for both Bear River (0.5 percent) and Central regions (0.8 percent). Finally, the contracting trends currently experienced in Castle Country (down 4 percent) and Southeast areas (down 0.2 percent) ought to moderate somewhat but not sufficiently to actually show growth. 

*Figure 1: 2011
Leisure/Hospitality
Services
as a Percent of Total
Employment*



Note: Bear River area consists of Box Elder, Cache and Rich counties. Castle Country includes Carbon and Emery counties. Central is comprised of Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier and Wayne counties. Southeast is made up of Grand and San Juan counties. Southwest includes Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane and Washington counties. The Uintah Basin is comprised of Daggett, Duchesne and Uintah counties. Wasatch Front counties (Weber, Davis, Morgan, Salt Lake Tooele, Summit, Wasatch, Utah and Juab) are not shown.

*Figure 2: 2013
Projected Employment
Growth in Leisure/
Hospitality Services
Employment*



**For more information about Utah's
off-the-front counties, visit
jobs.utah.gov/countyinfo**

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.